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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

REVIEW OF BUDAPEST NEWSPAPERS,  
9 - 22 JANUARY 1952

The following review is based on the 9 - 22 January 1952 issues of the Budapest newspapers Szabad Nep, Nepszava, Vilagossag, Magyar Nemzet, Fuggetlen Magyarorszag, Kis Ujsag, Szabad Ifjusag, Szabadsagharcos, Szabad Szc, Uj Ember, and Uj Elet.

Economic

The two weeks under review were marked by a flow of enthusiastic articles and letters to the editor boasting of overfulfillment of current production quotas and pledging even greater results. Szabad Nep also started a daily column on its front page, entitled "A Day of Our Country" and devoted to economic propaganda. Concurrently, a new movement was begun to honor Matyas Rakosi's 60th birthday on 9 March by increased production.

Notes of appraisal and severe censure were interjected into the general economic propaganda with the publication of the report of the Central Statistical Office on 1951 plan fulfillment and the critical addresses of Erno Gero and Matyas Rakosi at the 12 January meeting of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Workers Party in Budapest.

The Central Statistical Office pointed out that while quotas were exceeded in bauxite, natural gas, caustic soda, motor oil, raw steel, locomotives, machine tools, wool cloth, flour, and alcohol, output of coal, crude oil, open-hearth steel, tractors, electric machinery, petroleum, truck tires and tubes, silk fabrics, hemp yarn, and canned meat lagged behind 1951 goals.

Gero's criticism was directed mainly at the inadequacy of coal production and the widespread abuses in industry and mining. He said that while it was true that coal production increased 15 percent (2 million tons) in 1951, it

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was still below the quota for the year. In both industry and mining, he continued, the most pressing problems are work discipline (loafing on the job, absenteeism, etc), plan discipline (disregard of products listed in the production plans), manpower shortage, high production costs, poor quality, and management responsibility.

Rakosi scored particularly the lack of work discipline, for which he placed responsibility on the plant managers, and the poor quality of products. He also criticized party secretaries in the plants and mines for interfering with management, poor cooperation between workers and technicians, especially in the coal mines, and neglect of safety measure, which are prime responsibility of the trade unions.

Political

Anti-US and anti-UN agitation continued, with several attacks in each issue of Szabad Nep and Nepszava. Vyshinskiy's speeches at the UN meeting furnished the material for the majority of these articles. The US law appropriating 100 million dollars for the aid of refugees from orbit countries, referred to as the "espionage law," was excoriated with a vehemence equal to that directed at the US and the UN. The third major issue in this category was the failure of truce negotiations in Korea, for which the US was blamed.

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